



4310-VH-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

**[Docket ID BSEE-2013-0009; OMB Control Number 1014-NEW; 14XE1700DX
EEEE500000 EX1SF0000.DAQ000]**

**Information Collection Activities: Application for Permit to Modify (APM) and
supporting documentation; Submitted for Office of Management and Budget
(OMB) Review; Comment Request**

ACTION: 30-day Notice.

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we have submitted to OMB an information collection request (ICR) for approval of the paperwork requirements in the regulations under Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf pertaining to an Application for Permit to Modify (APM) and supporting documentation. This notice also provides the public a second opportunity to comment on the revised paperwork burden of these regulatory requirements. This ICR will separate out the hours and non-hour cost burdens associated with APMs from its currently approved IC into its own separate collection; it will also reflect more accurate burden estimates.

DATE: You must submit comments by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by either fax (202) 395-5806 or email

[\(OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov\)](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) directly to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior (1014-NEW).

Please provide a copy of your comments to Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) by any of the means below.

- Electronically: go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter BSEE-2013-0009 then click search. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view all related materials. We will post all comments.

- Email cheryl.blundon@bsee.gov, fax (703) 787-1546, or mail or hand-carry comments to: Department of the Interior; BSEE; Regulations and Standards Branch; ATTN: Cheryl Blundon; 381 Elden Street, HE3313; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817.

Please reference 1014-NEW in your comment and include your name and return address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Blundon, Regulations and Standards Branch, (703) 787-1607, to request additional information about this ICR. To see a copy of the entire ICR submitted to OMB, go to <http://www.reginfo.gov> (select Information Collection Review, Currently Under Review).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR 250, Application for Permit to Modify (APM) and all supporting documentation.

Form(s): BSEE-0124.

OMB Control Number: 1014-NEW.

Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules and regulations to administer leasing of mineral resources on the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease, right-of-way, or a right-of-use and easement. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop

oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. Section 1332(6) states that "operations in the Outer Continental Shelf should be conducted in a safe manner by well trained personnel using technology, precautions, and other techniques sufficient to prevent or minimize the likelihood of blowouts, loss of well control, fires, spillages, physical obstructions to other users of the waters or subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property or endanger life or health."

In addition to the general authority of OCSLA, section 301(a) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA), 30 U.S.C. 1751(a), grants authority to the Secretary to prescribe such rules and regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out FOGRMA's provisions. While the majority of FOGRMA is directed to royalty collection and enforcement, some provisions apply to offshore operations. For example, section 108 of FOGRMA, 30 U.S.C. 1718, grants the Secretary broad authority to inspect lease sites for the purpose of determining whether there is compliance with the mineral leasing laws. Section 109(c)(2) and (d)(1), 30 U.S.C. 1719(c)(2) and (d)(1), impose substantial civil penalties for failure to permit lawful inspections and for knowing or willful preparation or submission of false, inaccurate, or misleading reports, records, or other information. The Secretary has delegated some of the authority under FOGRMA to BSEE.

The Independent Offices Appropriations Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-133, 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996), and OMB Circular A-25, authorize Federal agencies to recover the full cost of services that confer special benefits. Under the Department of the Interior's implementing policy, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is required to charge fees for services that provide special benefits or privileges to an identifiable non-Federal recipient above and beyond those which accrue to the public at large. APMs are subject to cost recovery and BSEE regulations specify a service fee for this request.

These authorities and responsibilities are among those delegated to the BSEE. The regulations at 30 CFR part 250 stipulate the various requirements that must be submitted with an APM. The form and the numerous submittals that are included and/or attached to the form are the subject of this collection. Currently, this information is collected under 30 CFR part 250, Subpart D, 1014-0018 (216,211 hour burdens/\$2,225,286 non-hour cost burdens; expiration 10/21/2014); but this request will separate out the hours and non-hour cost burdens associated with APMs into its own separate collection so that both industry and BSEE have a better understanding of the complexities associated with all the information that is submitted with this form; and will reflect more accurate burden estimates. Once OMB approves this new collection, the hour and non-hour cost burdens associated with APMs will be removed from the IC 1014-0018.

This request also covers any related Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) that BSEE issues to clarify, supplement, or provide additional guidance on some aspects of our regulations

The current regulations specify the use of form BSEE-0124 (Application for Permit to

Modify). We have included a certification statement on the form, to state that false submissions are subject to criminal penalties. Also, we clarified a section of the form by updating the regulatory citations listed in Question #18.

Regulations implementing these responsibilities are delegated to BSEE. Responses are mandatory or are required to obtain or retain a benefit. No questions of a sensitive nature are asked. The BSEE protects information considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and DOI's implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2), and under regulations at 30 CFR 250.197, *Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection*, 30 CFR Part 252, *OCS Oil and Gas Information Program*.

The BSEE uses the information to ensure safe well completion, workover, and decommissioning operations and to protect the human, marine, and coastal environment. Among other things, BSEE specifically uses the information to ensure: the well completion, workover, and decommissioning unit is fit for the intended purpose; equipment is maintained in a state of readiness and meets safety standards; each well completion, workover, and decommissioning crew is properly trained and able to promptly perform well-control activities at any time during well operations; and compliance with safety standards. The current regulations provide for safe and proper field or reservoir development, resource evaluation, conservation, protection of correlative rights, safety, and environmental protection. We also review well records to ascertain whether the operations have encountered hydrocarbons or H₂S and to ensure that H₂S detection equipment, personnel protective equipment, and training of the crew are adequate for safe operations in zones known to contain H₂S and zones where the

presence of H₂S is unknown.

We use the information to determine the conditions of the site to avoid hazards inherent in well completions, workovers, and decommissioning operations. In addition, except for proprietary data, BSEE is required by the OCS Lands Act to make available to the public certain information that is submitted.

The information on the APM form (BSEE-0124) is used to evaluate and approve the adequacy of the equipment, materials, and/or procedures that the lessee or operator plans to use during drilling plan modifications, changes in major drilling equipment, and plugging back. In addition, except for proprietary data, BSEE is required by the OCS Lands Act to make available to the public certain information submitted on BSEE-0124. The information on the form is as follows:

Heading: identify the well name, lease operator, type of revision and timing of the proposed modifications.

Well at Total Depth/Surface: identify the unique location (area, block and lease of the proposed activity).

Proposed or Completed Work: information identifying the specific activity, revision or modification for which approval is requested. This includes specific identification of equipment, engineering, and pressure test data needed by BSEE to ascertain that operations will be conducted in a manner that ensures the safety of personnel and protection of the environment.

Question Information: Responses to questions (a) through (h) serve to ascertain compliance with applicable BSEE regulations and requirements and adherence to good operating practices.

Frequency: On occasion and as required by regulations.

Description of Respondents: Potential respondents comprise OCS Federal oil, gas, or sulphur lessees and/or operators.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: The estimated annual hour burden for this information collection is a total of 9,770 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

Citation 30 CFR 250 APM's	Reporting or Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours (Rounded)
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
Subparts D, E, F, H, P, Q	Submit APM plans (BSEE-0124). (This burden represents only the filling out of the form, the requirements are listed separately below).	1	2,893 application s	2,893
		2,893 applications x \$125 application fee = \$361,625		
Subparts D, E, F, H, P, Q	Submit Revised APM plans (BSEE-0124). (This burden represents only the filling out of the form, the requirements are listed separately below) [no fee charged].	1	1,551 application s	1,551
		Subtotal	4,444 responses	4,444 hour burdens
			\$361,625 non-hour cost burdens	
Subpart A				
125	Submit evidence of your fee for services receipt.	Exempt under 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(1).		0
197	Written confidentiality agreement.	Exempt under 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).		0
Subpart D				
423(c)(3); 449(j); 449(k); 460(a); 465	There are some regulatory requirements that give respondents the option of submitting with their APD or APM; industry advised us that when it comes to this particular subpart, they submit a Revised APD. There are no APM submittals under this subpart.	Burden covered under 30 CFR 250, Subpart D - 1014-0018.		0
Subpart E				
513(a)	Obtain written approval for well-completion operations. Submit the following information, which includes but not limited to: request approval for the completion or if the completion objective or plans have changed; description of the well-completion procedures; statement of the expected surface pressure, and type and weight of completion fluids; schematic drawing; a partial electric log; H2S presence or if unknown.	1	181 submittals	181
514(d)	Obtain approval to displace kill weight fluid with detailed step-by-step written procedures that include, but are not limited to: number of barriers, tests, BOP procedures, fluid volumes entering and leaving wellbore procedures.	40 mins.	175 submittals	117
515	(a thru c) For completion operations, include the following BOP descriptions: components, pressure ratings and test pressures; schematic; independent third-party verification and supporting documentation about blind-shear rams.	30 mins.	181 submittals	91
	(d) When you use a subsea BOP stack, submit independent third-party verification about BOP stack requirements.	15 mins.	17 submittals	4

Citation 30 CFR 250 APM's	Reporting or Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours (Rounded)
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
	(e)(1), (2) Independent third-party qualifications and evidence/ supporting documentation demonstrating their abilities.	20 mins.	192 submittals	64
516(a)	Submit a well-control procedure that indicates how the annular preventer will be utilized, and the pressure limitations that will be applied during each mode of pressure control.	15 mins.	181 submittals	45
517(d)	(8) Submit for approval test procedures, including how you will test each ROV function.	20 mins.	17 submittals	6
	(9)(i) Submit for approval test [autoshear and deadman] procedures. Include all required documentation.	15 mins.	17 submittals	4
526(a)	Submit a notification of corrective action of the diagnostic test.	15 mins.	68 notifications	17
Subtotal of Subpart E			1,046 responses	529 hour burdens
Subpart F				
613	(a), (b) Request approval to begin other than normal workover, which includes description of procedures, changes in equipment, schematic, info about H2S, etc..	30 mins.	802 requests	401
	(c) If completing to a new zone, submit reason for abandonment and statement of anticipated pressure data for new zone.	10 mins.	205 submittal	34
	(d) Within 30 days after completing the well-workover operation, except routine operations, submit showing the work as performed.	15 mins.	762 submittals	191
614(d)	Obtain approval to displace kill weight fluid with detailed step-by-step written procedures that include, but are not limited to: number of barriers, tests, BOP procedures, fluid volumes entering and leaving wellbore procedures.	40 mins.	51 requests	34
615	(a thru c) For workover operations, include the following BOP descriptions with your submittal: components, pressure ratings and test pressures; schematic; independent third-party verification and supporting documentation about blind-shear rams.	30 mins.	629 submittals	315
	(d) When you use a subsea BOP stack, independent third-party verification about BOP stack requirements.	15 mins.	51 verifications	13
	(e)(1), (2) Independent third-party qualifications and evidence/ supporting documentation demonstrating their abilities.	20 mins.	576 submittals	192
616(a)	Submit well-workover procedures how the annular preventer will be utilized and the pressure limitations that will be applied during each mode of pressure control.	20 mins.	629 procedures	210
616(f)(4)	Obtain approval to conduct operations without	15	273	68

Citation 30 CFR 250 APM's	Reporting or Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours (Rounded)
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
	downhole check valves, describe alternate procedures and equipment to conduct operations without downhole check valves.	mins.	approvals	
617(d), (h)(1+2)	Obtain approval: stump test and include procedures; test procedures, including how you will test each ROV function and autoshear deadman; include required documentation; and utilization description.	40 mins.	51 approvals	34
Subtotal of Subpart F			4,029 responses	1,492 hour burdens
Subpart H				
801(h)	Request approval to temporarily remove safety device for non-routine operations.	10 mins.	55 approvals	9
807(a)	Submit detailed information that demonstrates the SSSVs and related equipment capabilities re HPHT; include discussions of design verification analysis and validation, functional listing process, and procedures used; explain fit-for-service.	40 mins.	15 submittals	10
Subtotal of Subpart H			70 responses	19 hour burdens
Subpart P				
It needs to be noted that for Sulphur Operations, while there may be burden hours listed that are associated with some form of an APM submittal, we have not had any sulphur leases for numerous years, therefore, we are submitting minimal burden.				
1618(a), (b)	Request approval / submit requests for changes in plans, changes in major drilling equipment, proposals to deepen, sidetrack, complete, workover, or plug back a well, or engage in similar activities; include but not limited to, detailed statement of proposed work changed; present state of well; after completion, a detailed report of all the work done and results.	30 mins.	1 plan	1
1619(b)	Submit duplicate copies of the records of all activities related to and conducted during the suspension or temporary prohibition.	10 mins.	1 submittal	1
1622(a), (b)	Obtain written approval to begin operations; include description of procedures followed; changes to existing equipment, schematic drawing; zones info re H2S, etc.	20 mins.	1 approval	1
1622(c)	(2) Submit results of any well tests and a new schematic of the well if any subsurface equipment has been changed.	10 mins.	1 submittal	1
Subtotal of Subpart P			4 responses	4 hour burdens
Subpart Q				
1706(a)	Request approval of well abandonment operations.	20 mins.	710 requests	237
1706(f)	(4) Request approval to conduct operations without downhole check valves, describe	15 mins.	500 requests	125

Citation 30 CFR 250 APM's	Reporting or Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours (Rounded)
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
	alternate procedures and equipment.			
1707(d)	Submit and obtain approval of plan describing the stump test procedures.	10 mins.	50 submittals	8
1707(h)	(1) Submit test procedures, including how you will test each ROV function for approval; include documentation and utilization description.	30 mins.	50 submittals	25
1709	Obtain approval to displace kill weight fluid with detailed step-by-step written procedures that include, but are not limited to: number of barriers, tests, BOP procedures, fluid volumes entering and leaving wellbore procedures.	30 mins.	50 submittals	25
1712; 1704(g)	(a), (b), (d), (f)(9 + 11), (g) Obtain and receive approval before permanently plugging a well or zone. Include in request, but not limited to, reason plugging well, with relevant information; well test and pressure data; type and weight of well control fluid; a schematic listing mud and cement properties; plus testing plans. Submit Certification by a Registered Professional Engineer of the well abandonment design and procedures; certify the design	40 mins.	244 certifications	163
	(c), (e), (f) Obtain and receive approval before permanently plugging a well or zone. Include in request, but not limited to max surface pressure and determination; description of work; well depth, perforated intervals; casing and tubing depths/details, plus locations, types, lengths, etc.	1.5	444 submittals	666
1717; 1704(g)	Submit with a final well schematic, description, nature and quantities of material used; relating to casing string - description of methods used, size and amount of casing and depth.	1	434 submittals	434
1721(a), (g), (h); 1704(g)	Submit the applicable information required to temporarily abandon a well for approval; after temporarily plugging a well, submit well schematic, description of remaining subsea wellheads, casing stubs, mudline suspension equipment and required information of this section; submit certification by a Registered Professional Engineer of the well abandonment design and procedures; certify design.	70 mins.	1,296 submittals	1,512
1722(a), (d); 1704(g)	Request approval to install a subsea protective device.	30 mins.	15 requests / submittals	8
	Submit a report including dates of trawling test and vessel used; plat showing trawl lines; description of operation and nets used; seafloor penetration depth; summary of results listed in this section; letter signed by witness of test.	1.5		23
1723(b); 1704(g)	Submit a request to perform work to remove casing stub, mudline equipment, and/or subsea protective covering.	20 mins.	150 requests	50

Citation 30 CFR 250 APM's	Reporting or Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses	Annual Burden Hours (Rounded)
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens		
1743(a); 1704(g)	Submit signed certification; date of verification work and vessel; area surveyed; method used; results of survey including debris or statement that no objects were recover; a post-trawling plot or map showing area.	1.25	5 certifications	6
Subtotal of Subpart Q			3,948 responses	3,282 hour burdens
Total Burden			13,524 annual responses	9,770 annual burden hours
			\$361,625 non-hour cost burdens	

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Non-Hour Cost Burden: We have identified one non-hour cost burden associated with the collection of information for a total of \$361,625. The service fee of \$125 is required to recover the Federal Government's processing costs of the APM. We have not identified any other non-hour cost burdens associated with this collection of information.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

Comments: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) requires each agency “. . . to provide notice . . . and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information . . .” Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) evaluate whether the collection is necessary or useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of technology.

To comply with the public consultation process, on December 3, 2013, we published a **Federal Register** notice (78 FR 72693) announcing that we would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60-day comment period. In addition, § 250.199 provides the OMB Control Number for the information collection requirements imposed by the 30 CFR 250 regulations and forms. The regulation also informs the public that they may comment at any time on the collections of information and provides the address to which they should send comments. We received one set of

comments in response to the **Federal Register** notice. One comment was about how BSEE included a certification statement on the form that false submissions are subject to criminal penalties.” The response to the commenters’ input is as follows: The certification statement we added to the form is a standard statement on many government forms. The statement is intended to remind submitters of the penalties for false statements. Anyone who submits a false statement to the government may be subject to civil and criminal penalties even if the statement does not appear on a form. Inclusion of the statement serves to ensure submitters are aware of applicable law. Another comment was the addition of Question #8b - Well Status. Due to the comment, it came to light that industry does not have to input that information on the form - once the form starts to be filled out, the well status information is populated automatically; therefore, we removed Question # 8b. The last comment pertains to the estimated reporting and recordkeeping non-hour cost burden. The commenter believes that the \$361,625 cost is for additional time and effort to file the form with the suggested changes. That is not the case. BSEE is required to charge fees for services that provide special benefits or privileges to an identifiable non-Federal recipient above and beyond those which accrue to the public at large (see the Independent Offices Appropriations Act paragraph under the Abstract). APMs are subject to a \$125 cost recovery and BSEE regulations specify a service fee for this request under 30 CFR 250.125.

Public Availability of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your

personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

February 19, 2014
Dated.

Robert W. Middleton, Deputy Chief,
Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs.

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